

The DECserver 250 is Digital's first network server dedicated to printers and the first server to provide Ethernet connection for both parallel and serial printers.

A Dedicated Server for Printers

The DECserver 250, a cost-effective network server dedicated to printers, is capable of integrating both parallel and serial printers into your distributed computing network. Printers become shared resources, available to any CPU and to any user on the Ethernet local area network (LAN). The DECserver 250 supports multiple printers and provides flexible printer placement options, so that users may now have the printers they want, where they want them.

DECserver 250 replaces direct backplane connection for printers and allows Digital's high-speed parallel printers to be networked for the first time. The server can support two parallel printers at speeds of up to 2,000 lines per minute, and as many as four serial printers - two at 19.2K Baud and two at 9600 Baud.

Compatible with Digital's printers and CPUs, the DECserver 250 uses standard Ethernet connections and provides for easy migration from dedicated printer connections to network printing.

Highlights

- Compatible with LAT protocol on the Ethernet LAN.
- Provides two standard Dataproducts® parallel printer interfaces.
- Supports four RS232 serial printer interfaces.
- Able to support virtually all Digital parallel line printers.

A Hardcopy Solution for Your Local Area Network

Distributed printing is an ever-growing requirement of LANs that support sophisticated corporate communications environments. The DECserver 250 is a key part of a low-cost, high performance distributed printing solution, offering greater user accessibility and more efficient use of printing resources.

LAN-based applications, such as electronic documentation and electronic publishing, bring with them user requirements for increased peripheral accessibility and functionality, particularly for printers. Users depend heavily on a variety of printers, and they want their printers nearby.

Since direct CPU backplane-to-printer connection is no longer desirable in a distributed computing environment, a networked hardcopy solution must be an integral part of an enterprise-wide distributed computing strategy. Now, you can network your printers with Digital's DECserver 250.

This cost-effective server is the first to enable network connection for Digital's high-speed parallel line printers, and is well-equipped to handle your time-critical printing applications.

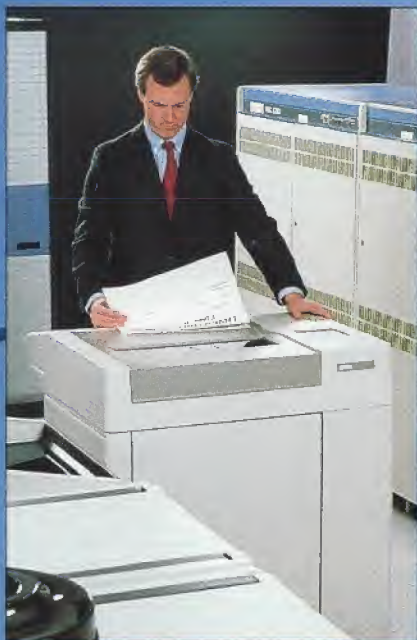


Maximize Your Investment with Distributed Printing

By connecting printers to a LAN, instead of directly to the CPU, the DECserver 250 provides for more flexible and efficient sharing of printing resources.

In addition to the benefits of making your high-performance parallel printers available to many users across several CPUs, consider the advantages of more flexible printer placement options. Freed from the constraints of backplane connection, you can put your printers where they are needed most - close to their users.

By enabling parallel printers to be located nearer to users, the DECserver 250 makes additional space in the CPU area available for increased computing power.



Flexible Placement Options

With printer placement independent of host CPU location the DECserver 250 can support printers both in the open office and in MIS environments.

By using Digital's Long-Line Fiber Optic Interface (LLF01), you can place a parallel line printer up to 1,500 feet from the server. Remote placement is ideal for positioning printers within secure areas, where the confidentiality of printed data can be assured.

Easy Migration

The DECserver 250 provides an easy migration path from direct CPU-to-printer connection to network printer connections.

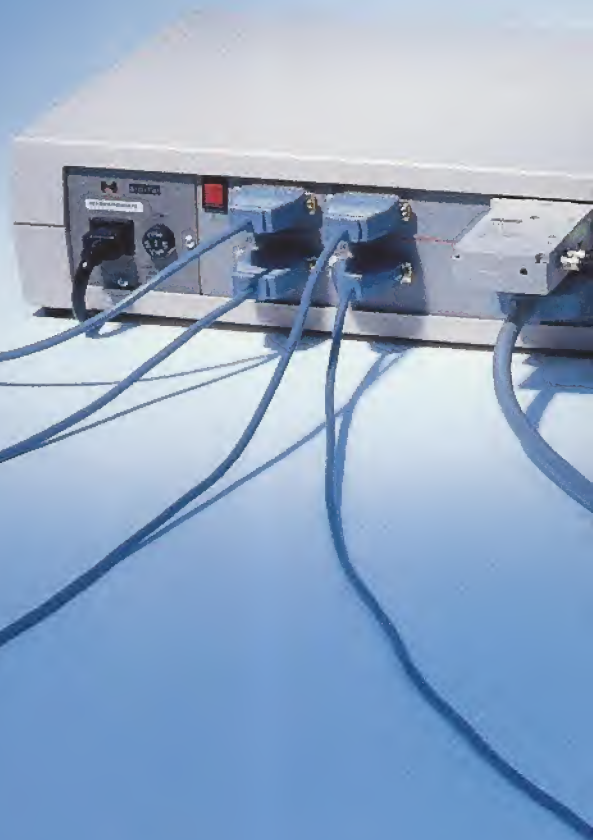
Users can reconnect their existing printers to the DECserver 250, without modifications to the printers, using standard Ethernet connection products for easy integration into the Ethernet network.

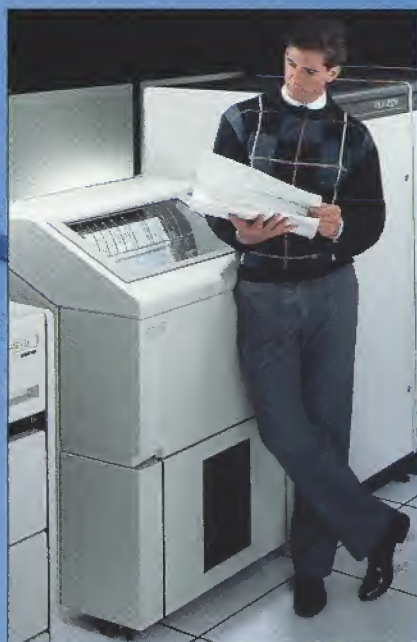


The DECserver 250 will connect most Digital printers to Digital VAX, MicroVAX and PDP CPUs, running the supported versions of VMS or ULTRIX. Software that runs the DECserver 250 is down-line loaded over the network from a Phase IV DECnet load host CPU. This software is compatible with VMS V4.7 or later and ULTRIX V2.0 or later operating systems.

The DECserver 250 includes self-test diagnostics and on-line testing capabilities through loop-back functions that test both parallel and serial ports. The DECserver 250 also offers load balancing, which is a function that dynamically spreads the user load evenly among service nodes (CPUs) that offer the same service.

Another enhancement of the DECserver 250 is its ability to protect print files in the event of a problem on the network or at the printer. The server will perform an up-line dump of a file, if the file is unable to reach the printer or the printer is not functional.





One Network Connection for Your Printers

The DECserver 250 will simultaneously support two parallel line printers at their top rated speeds of up to 2,000 lines per minute. The server will also support four serial printers, two at rated speeds of up to 19.2K Baud, and two at rated speeds of up to 9600 Baud. Three of the serial ports support printers while one serial port supports either terminal or printer connection with modem control.

The following Digital parallel line printers are supported: LG01, LG02 (with firmware V3.0), LP25, LP26, LP27 (except the LP27-DA/DB), LP29, LP37, LXY12 and LXY22.

The following Digital serial printers are supported: LG31, LG01-DA, LG02-DA, LA50, LA75, LA 120, LA210, LXY12-DA, LXY22-DA, LN03, LN03R, LP25S, LP26S, LCG01, LJ250 (RS232 only).

The DECserver 250 implements the Local Area Transport (LAT) protocol for communication with user terminals that implement this protocol on the same Ethernet LAN. The server uses the LAT to accept host data from the LAN and to send it to the printer designated by the user.

The DECserver 250 offers the same ease of use and reliability that you have come to expect from Digital's network controllers and servers. The server is invisible to the operator and performs with little or no intervention once it is installed.

The DECserver 250 is also fully compliant with UL, CSA and FCC regulations.



Hardware Connections and Features

The DECserver 250 offers simple and direct DECnet/Ethernet connectivity. Use the H4000/4005 transceivers for connection to standard Ethernet. Thin wire Ethernet connections can be achieved with an optional thin-to-standard wire adapter (DESTA). Multiple DECserver 250 configurations are possible with a DELNI, an Ethernet star coupler.

The DECserver 250 provides a convenient method to connect the following:

- two Digital asynchronous parallel printers using two standard Dataproducts 37-pin interface connections,
- three Digital asynchronous serial printers using three standard EIA RS-232-C/CCITT 25 pin connections,
- a fourth Digital asynchronous serial printer or a terminal with modem control to one or more service hosts on the Ethernet using a standard EIA RS-232 connection.

Digital's printers are attached to the DECserver 250 via standard cables. Digital recommends the BC22D (25-feet) for serial printers and the BC27A (30-feet) for parallel printers. For remote parallel printer connection, use the LLF01's BN25J.

The DECserver 250 is optimized for printer connection to the LAN. Terminal support is available on one serial port only. Both parallel and serial ports have their own dedicated buffers for processing printer data.

Limited modem support is offered on three serial ports to prevent data from being sent to serial printers if they are off-line or not connected. Full modem support is provided on only one port to minimize disruptions to printer performance.

The DECserver 250 can be placed on a table top or rack mounted. Wall mounting requires optional hardware.

Part of Your Total Networking Solution

With the DECserver 250, Digital continues to expand its family of networking servers. This flexible server solves the problems of printer connectivity, availability and interfacing as high performance hardcopy solutions are integrated into increasingly complex computing networks.

A further commitment to user satisfaction is that of Digital's Customer Services, which provides competitively priced hardware, software, and networking support — from planning and design to implementation and ongoing management.

The DECserver 250 improves and insures printer connectivity for your uses, even as their printing requirements continue to evolve. This newest entry in the family of servers demonstrates Digital's commitment to support and strengthens your network — now, and into the future.

For More Information

To find out more about the DECserver 250 or about any of Digital's networking solutions, contact your local Digital Sales Office or Authorized Digital Distributor, or call 1-800-832-6277; outside the U.S.A., call 1-603-884-8990.



DECserver 250 meets the open office acoustic requirements of Digital Standard 104 (55db), and is fully compliant with UL, CSA and FCC regulations.

Digital believes the information in this publication is accurate as of its publication date; such information is subject to change without notice. Digital is not responsible for any inadvertent errors.

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Ethernet is a trademark of Xerox Corporation.

DECserver 250 Specifications

Physical

Width:	19-inches (49.3 cm)
Height:	4.6-inches (11.7 cm)
Depth:	12.3-inches (31.2 cm)
Weight:	13 lb (5.9 kg)

Network Interfaces

Physical Connections

One Standard Ethernet connection
Two standard Dataproducts 37-pin parallel printer interfaces
Four EIA RS-232 25-pin serial printer interfaces.

Operating Mode

Full duplex

Data Format:

For serial line: 7 or 8 bit ASCII

Data Rate:

One or two stop bits asynchronous.
For serial ports: half at maximum baud rate of 19.2 K Baud; other half at maximum rate of 9600 Baud.

Print Speeds Supported:

2-parallel printers at up to 2,000 lines per minute
2 serial printers at 9.2 K Baud
2 serial printers at 9600 Baud.

Electrical Requirements

Line Voltage	100-120 V, 200-240 V (Switch selectable)
Line Frequency	50-60 Hz

Operating Environment Digital Class C (Industrial)

Temperature	41°F (5°C) to 122°F (50°C)
Relative Humidity	10% to 95% (non condensing)
Altitude	8,000 ft. (2.4km)
Maximum Wet Bulb	0°F (32°C)
Minimum Dew Point	36°F (2°C)

Non-operating Environment

Temperature	-40°F (-44°C) to 151°F (66°C)
Relative Humidity	95% maximum
Altitude:	30,900 ft. (9.1 km)